

**In the Claims**

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts.

Please cancel claim 43 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend pending claims 36 and 40 as noted below.

Please add claims 45-48 as noted below.

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A method for treating Parkinson's disease in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective therapeutic amount of a compound that blocks ATP binding to MLK by binding to a MLK ATP binding site and that inhibits MLK activity and thereby prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.

37-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein MLK is MLK1, MLK2 or MLK3, or combinations thereof.

40. (Currently amended) A method for preventing neuronal cell death in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease, comprising administering to the mammal in need thereof an effective therapeutic amount of a compound that blocks ATP binding to MLK by binding to a MLK ATP binding site and that inhibits MLK activity in a neuronal cell and thereby prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.

41-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the mammal is a human.
45. (New) A method for treating Parkinson's disease in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective therapeutic amount of kinase dead MLK2 or dominant negative SEK1 that inhibits MLK activity and thereby prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.
46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the dominant negative SEK1 is SEK1(K54R).
47. (New) A method for preventing neuronal cell death in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease, comprising administering to the mammal in need thereof an effective therapeutic amount of kinase dead MLK2 or dominant negative SEK1 that inhibits MLK activity in a neuronal cell and thereby prevent neuronal cell death occurring in a mammal susceptible to or having Parkinson's disease.
48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the dominant negative SEK1 is SEK1(K54R).